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4 May 1964

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR:

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. Herewith is the book, THE U-2 AFFAIR, by David Wise and Thomas B. Ross published by Random House. Biographical profiles of the two authors, who are on the staff of the N.Y. Herald Tribune and the Chicago SUN-TIMES, respectively, appear on p. 271. An explanation of their sources and methods appears on pp. 267-68. Their principal conclusions, and some of the details, are appearing simultaneously in TIME magazine, issues of May 8 and May 22, 1964.

3. The book contains many details and minutiae, especially on the personalities and locales of the history of the U-2 plane and the alleged decisions and operations of the U-2 flights. The book is full of information, and also of mis-information.

4. Also, while the book contains excerpts from some of the principal public explanations of the U-2 affair, it does omit some of the key texts, including the joint-House-Senate report in March 1960, and even Congressman Gamon's speech in May 1960 on the question of Congressional responsibility. Nor does the book undertake to appraise more than a very small fraction of the outpouring of public discussion, in and out of the Congress over the past two years, on the merits and demerits of the issues relating to the use of aerial overflights as an instrument of national security.

5. The authors say they interviewed "more than a hundred persons, including virtually all of the officials and former officials of the U.S. Government who took part in the decision-making before and after the flight ... on May 1, 1960" (p. 267). Not a single official is acknowledged by name, however, with the explanation that they were "willing to be interviewed, often at some personal risk, because they saw a larger national interest in presenting the facts." (p. 269).

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Assistant to the Director

cc: DDCI

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